

— TROUTMAN SANDERS MAYS & VALENTINE LLP —
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
A LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

BANK OF AMERICA CENTER
1111 EAST MAIN STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219
www.troutmansanders.com
TELEPHONE: 804-697-1200
FACSIMILE: 804-697-1339

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. BOX 1122
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23218-1122

Mark L. Earley
mark.earley@troutmansanders.com

Direct Dial: 804-697-1212

January 7, 2002

Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D. Street NW - Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530-0001

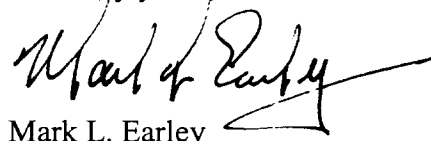
Re: Comments on the Microsoft Proposed Settlement Agreement

Dear Ms. Hesse:

Having served as Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Virginia from January of 1997 until June of 2001, I watched the Government's case with Microsoft unfold and progress through the court system. I write to let you know that I believe that the current settlement pending is in the best interest of the nation, the best interest of the industry, and the best interest of consumers. The settlement strikes a balance between placing sanctions on Microsoft while preserving the company and its ability to innovate and market its products. The sanctions chosen will protect consumers and give them greater choice when they purchase and enhance their computers yet at the same time foster greater competition within the software industry. I believe it is a just and fair resolution to all parties concerned.

I write to express my support of the Department of Justice and the Attorneys General for their efforts to finally put an end to this case and agree to a settlement that is in our nation's best interest.

Sincerely yours,



Mark L. Earley

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